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# Holomorphic Differentials as Functions of Moduli

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Lipman Bers

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The purpose of this note is to strengthen the results of [3] and to indicate a very brief derivation of some theorems announced without proof in [1] and [3].

We begin by indicating a correction to [3]. Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  be Riemann surfaces,  $f$  an orientation preserving (orientation reversing) homeomorphism of bounded eccentricity of  $S_1$  onto  $S_2$  and  $[f]$  the homotopy class of  $f$ ; then  $(S_1, [f], S_2)$  is called an even (odd) coupled pair of Riemann surfaces. The definition of equivalence of such pairs given in [3] is imprecise and garbled by misprints. The correct definition reads:  $(S_1, [f], S_2)$  and  $(S'_1, [f'], S'_2)$  are called equivalent if there exist conformal homeomorphisms  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  with  $h_1(S_1) = S'_1, h_2(S_2) = S'_2$  and  $[h_2 f] = [f' h_1]$ ; the two pairs are called strongly equivalent if  $S'_2 = S_2$  and there exists a conformal homeomorphism  $h$  with  $h(S_1) = S'_1$  and  $[f] = [h' f]$ . If  $S_0$  is a Riemann surface, then the Teichmüller space  $T(S_0)$  can be thought of as the set of strong equivalence classes of even pairs  $(S, [f], S_0)$  (and not of simple equivalence classes as stated in [3]).<sup>1</sup>

From now on we assume that  $S_0$  is a fixed closed Riemann surface of genus  $g > 1$ , and we write  $T$  instead of  $T(S_0)$ .  $T$  has a natural complex analytic structure and can be represented as a bounded domain, homeomorphic to a ball, in complex number space with coordinates (moduli)  $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{3g-3}$  (cf. [1, 2]). Points of  $T$  will be denoted by  $\tau$ . We may assume that  $S_0$  is given as the unit disc modulo a fixed-point-free Fuchsian group, and that  $\tau=0$  corresponds to the pair  $(S_0, [\text{identity}], S_0)$ .



THEOREM I. One can associate to every  $\tau \in T$  a bounded Jordan domain  $D(\tau)$  and  $2g$  Möbius transformations  $z \rightarrow A_j(z, \tau)$ ,  $z \rightarrow B_j(z, \tau)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, g$ , such that the following conditions are satisfied.

(i) The boundary curve of  $D(\tau)$  admits the parametric representation  $z = \sigma(e^{i\theta}, \tau)$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ ,  $\sigma$  depending holomorphically on  $\tau$ .  $D(0)$  is the unit disc.

(ii) The  $A_j$  and  $B_j$  depend holomorphically on  $\tau$  and satisfy the relation

$$(1) \quad \prod_{j=1}^g A_j B_j^{-1} = 1$$

For every fixed  $\tau \in T$  they generate, with the single defining relation (1), a fixed-point-free discrete group  $G(\tau)$  of conformal self-mappings of  $D(\tau)$ , so that  $S(\tau) = D(\tau) / G(\tau)$  is a closed Riemann surface of genus  $g$ .  $S(0)$  is the surface  $S_0$ .

(iii) Denote by  $\alpha(\tau)$  the basis of the fundamental group of  $S(\tau)$  defined by  $A_1, \dots, B_g$ , and by  $f_\tau$  a quasiconformal mapping of  $S(\tau)$  onto  $S(0)$  which takes  $\alpha(\tau)$  into  $\alpha(0)$ . Then the point  $\tau$  corresponds to the pair  $(S(\tau), [f_\tau], S_0)$ .

This statement differs from Theorem 2 in [3] primarily by the boundedness condition for  $D(\tau)$  and can be obtained from that theorem without much difficulty.

We denote by  $M$  the domain in complex number space of  $3g-2$  dimensions which consists of points  $(z, \tau)$  with  $z \in D(\tau)$  and  $\tau \in T$ . By Theorem 3 in [3]  $M$  is holomorphically equivalent to  $T(S_0 - \{p\})$  for a fixed  $p \in S_0$ .



We denote by  $W_q(\tau)$  the (complex) vector space of holomorphic functions  $\varphi(z)$ ,  $z \in D(\tau)$ , for which  $\varphi(z)dz^q$  is invariant under  $G(\tau)$ ; this is the same as the space of  $q$ -dimensional holomorphic differentials on  $S(\tau)$ , so that  $\dim W_q(\tau) = 0, g$ , or  $(2q-1)(g-1)$  according to whether  $g \leq 0$ ,  $g=0, g \geq 1$ , or  $g > 1$ . In  $W_1(\tau)$  there exist  $g$  distinguished elements,  $p_k(z, \tau)$ , determined by the conditions

$$(2) \quad A_i(z, \tau) = \int_z p_k(z', \tau) dz' = \int_{ik};$$

these correspond to the normalized Abelian differentials of the first kind on  $S(\tau)$  belonging to the 'canonical' homology basis  $a(\tau)$  determined by  $\alpha(\tau)$ . The period matrix of  $S(\tau)$  belonging to  $a(\tau)$  will be denoted by  $Z(\tau)$ . It has the elements

$$Z_{ik}(\tau) = \int_z p_k(z', \tau) dz'$$

and is a point in the Siegel space of symmetric matrices with positive definite imaginary part.

We denote by  $W_{-q}$  the vector space of holomorphic functions  $\varphi(z, \tau)$ ,  $(z, \tau) \in M$ , which belong to  $W_q(\tau)$  for every fixed  $\tau \in T$ .

THEOREM II. Every element of  $W_q(\tau)$  is a restriction of an element of  $W_{-q}$ .

Proof. Assume that  $q > 2$ . Let  $C_j$ ,  $j=1, 2, \dots$ , be a complete system of non equivalent (with respect to (1)) words in the letters  $A_1, \dots, B_g$ . If  $P(t)$  is a polynomial, then the Poincaré series

$$(3) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(C_j(z, \tau)) (\partial C_j(z, \tau) / \partial z)^q$$



converges normally in  $M$  and its sum belongs to  $\underline{W}_q$ . On the other hand, since  $D(\tau)$  is a bounded Jordan domain and  $G(\tau)$  has a compact fundamental region, Theorem 4 in [4] implies that, for a fixed  $\tau$ , every element of  $\underline{W}_q(\tau)$  is of the form (3).

For  $q = 1$  we shall show that every  $p_j$  belongs to  $\underline{W}_1$  (i.e. that the normalized Abelian differentials are holomorphic functions of the moduli).

THEOREM III. The functions  $p_k(z, \tau)$ ,  $k=1, \dots, g$ , are holomorphic in  $M$ .

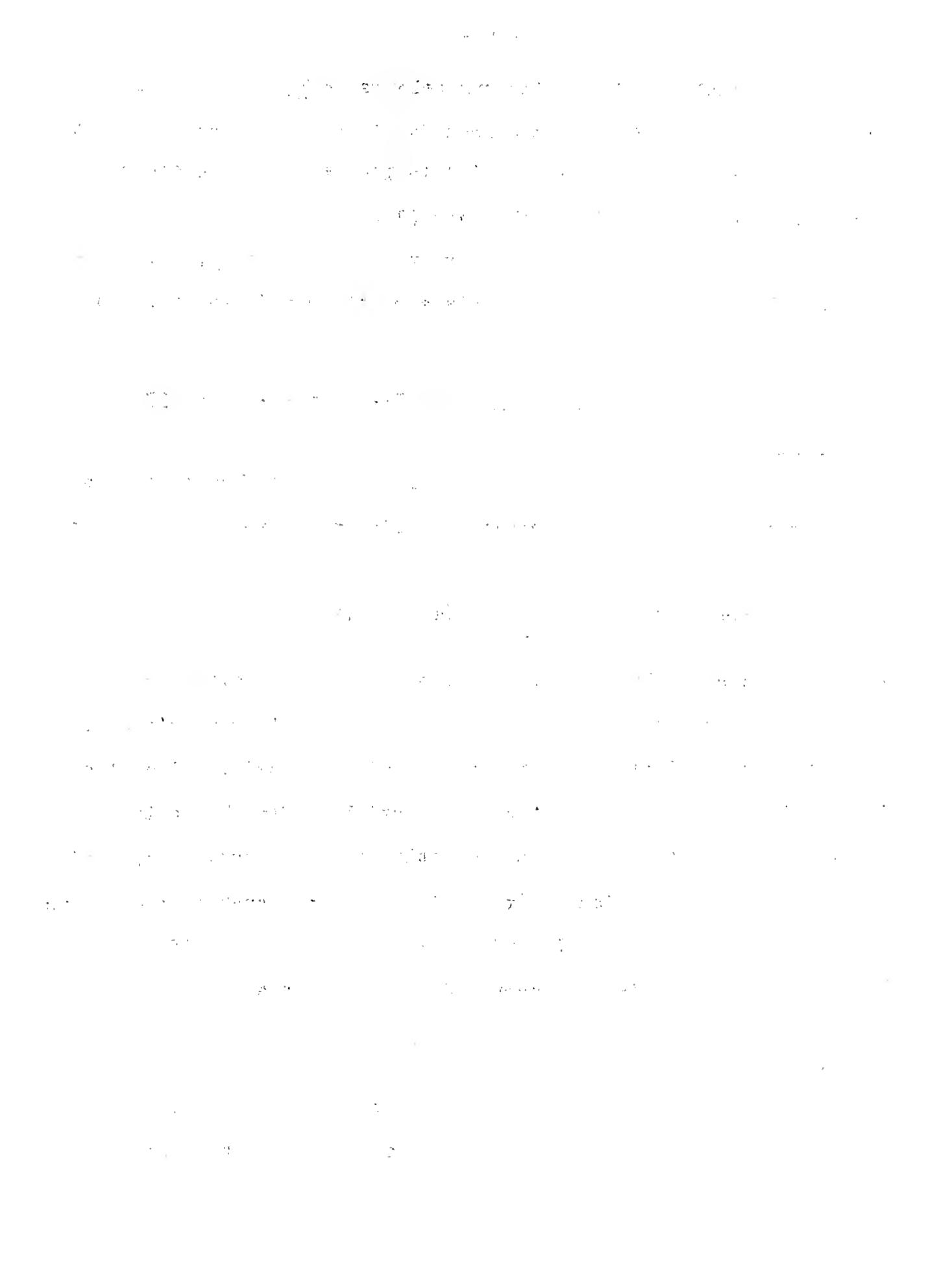
Proof. It suffices to consider  $p_1$ . We shall show that in a neighborhood of a fixed but arbitrary point  $\tau_0 \in T$  we have an identity of the form

$$(4) \quad p_1(z, \tau) = \bar{\phi}(z, \tau)^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{5g-5} c_j(\tau) \bar{\phi}_j(z, \tau)$$

where the  $c_j$  are holomorphic,  $\bar{\phi} \in \underline{W}_2$ , and the  $\bar{\phi}_j$  are elements of  $\underline{W}_3$ . We first choose  $\bar{\phi}$  so that  $\bar{\phi}(z, \tau_0)$  vanishes at  $4g-4$  points  $z_i$  which are not equivalent under  $G(\tau_0)$ . This is possible since the 'general' holomorphic quadratic differential on  $S(\tau)$  has only simple zeros (Bertini) and hence exactly  $4g-4$  of those. There exist  $4g-4$  holomorphic functions  $\beta_i(\tau)$  defined near  $\tau_0$ , such that  $\beta_i(\tau_0)=0$  and  $\bar{\phi}(z_i + \beta_i(\tau), \tau) = 0$ . In order that the right hand side of (4) belong to  $\underline{W}_1(\tau)$  it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{5g-5} c_j(\tau) \bar{\phi}_j(z_i + \beta_i(\tau), \tau) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, 4g-4,$$

and one sees at once that any  $4g-5$  of these equations imply the  $(4g-4)$ -th. In order that (4) hold near  $\tau_0$  the  $c_j$  must satisfy  $g$



additional linear equations which are obtained from (1) by setting  $k=1$  and choosing a fixed point  $z$  and fixed paths of integration, avoiding the points  $z_i$ . The resulting linear system, with holomorphic coefficients, for the unknown functions  $c_j$ , is uniquely solvable at  $\tau_0$  if the functions  $\tilde{\phi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\phi}_{15g-5}$  are chosen so as to be linearly independent for  $\tau = \tau_0$ . In this case the equations are uniquely solvable for  $\tau$  close to  $\tau_0$ , and the solutions depend holomorphically on  $\tau$ .

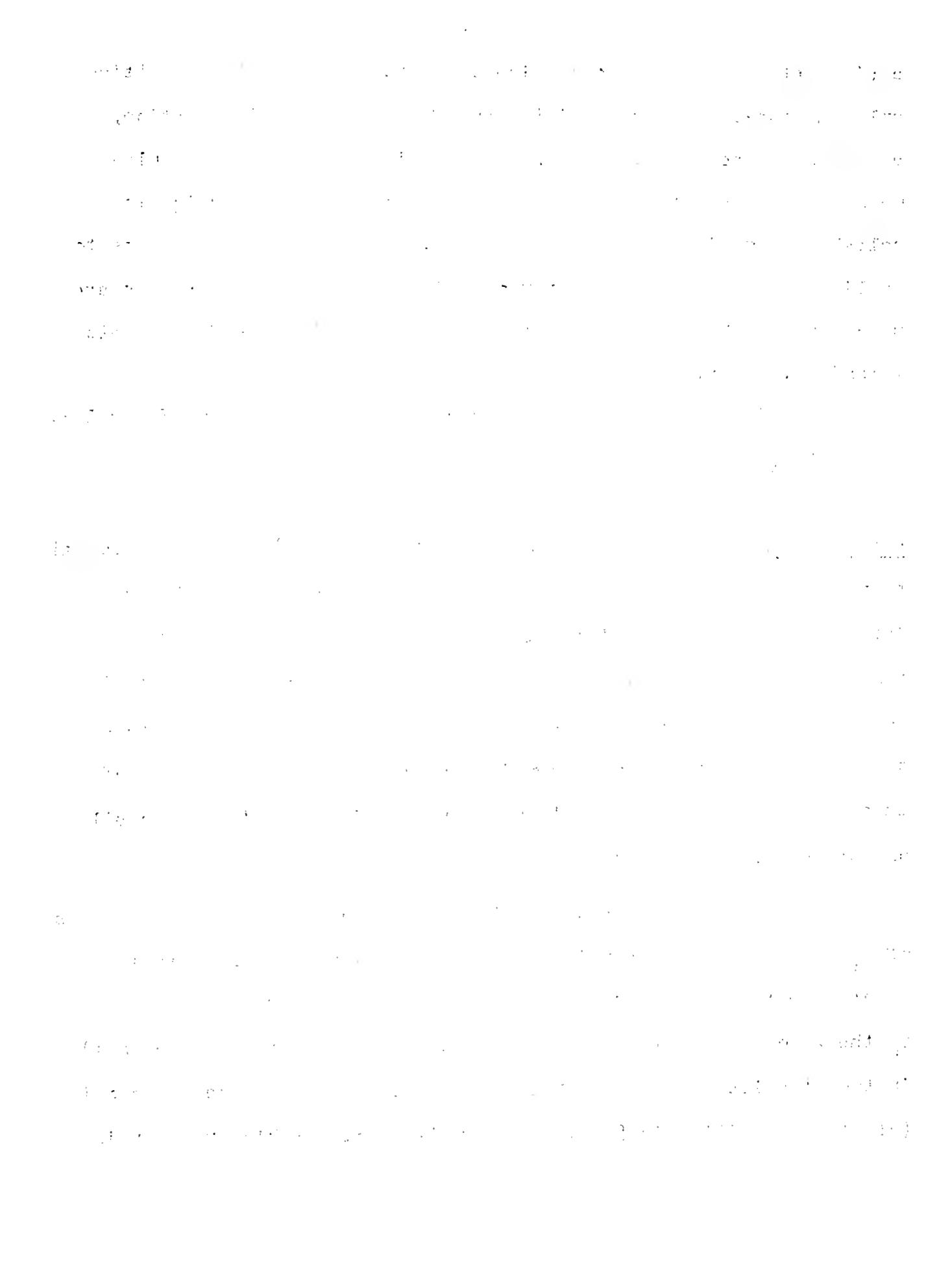
We proceed to derive some consequences from Theorems II and III.

(a) The functions

$$f_{ij} = p_i/p_j, \quad f_{ijk} = f_k^{-1} \partial \log f_{ij} / \partial z$$

are meromorphic in  $M$ . This proves Theorem J in [1]. It is classical that every meromorphic function in  $D(\tau)$  which is automorphic under  $G(\tau)$  can be expressed rationally in terms of the functions  $f_{ij}, f_{ijk}$  (and even in terms of the  $f_{ij}$  alone if  $S(\tau)$  is not hyperelliptic). Thus we obtain a proof of Theorem 4 in [3] which asserts the existence of finitely many meromorphic functions of the moduli and of an additional complex variable which uniformize simultaneously all algebraic curves of genus  $g > 1$ .

(b) Let us choose  $(2q-1)(g-1)$  elements of  $\underline{W}_q$ ,  $q > 1$  (or  $g$  elements of  $\underline{W}_1$ ) which are linearly independent for  $\tau = \tau_0$ , and let  $w(z, \tau)$  denote their Wronskian with respect to  $z$ . For a fixed  $\tau$  close to  $\tau_0$  the zeros of  $w(z, \tau)$  are precisely the Weierstrass points of  $S(\tau)$ , in the classical sense if  $q = 1$ , in the sense of Petersson if  $q > 1$  (cf. the definition in [4]). Since  $w$  is a holomorphic function in  $M$



we conclude that the Weierstrass points on a closed Riemann surface depend holomorphically on the moduli (cf. Rauch [6], Röhrl [7]).

(c) Now let  $w(z, \tau)$  denote the Wronskian of an arbitrary set of  $\dim W_q(\tau)$  elements of  $W_q$  and let  $N$  denote the set of those  $\tau \in T$  for which  $w(z, \tau) \equiv 0$ . If  $z_0$  is not a Weierstrass point of  $S(\tau_0)$ , then there is a neighborhood of  $\tau_0$  in which the points of  $N$  are precisely the zeros of  $w(z_0, \tau)$ . We conclude that  $N$  is either empty, or the whole domain  $T$ , or an analytic subvariety of  $T$  of codimension 1.

(d) Let  $H$  denote the set of those  $\tau \in T$  for which  $S(\tau)$  is hyperelliptic. For  $\tau \in T - H$  every element of  $W_q(\tau)$  can be written as a homogeneous polynomial in the  $p_j$  (M. Noether). For  $\tau \in H$  the subspace of  $W_q(\tau)$  consisting of homogeneous polynomials in elements of  $W_1(\tau)$  has dimension  $q(g-1)-1$ . But  $H$  is an analytic subvariety of  $T$  of dimension  $2g-1$ , so that, noting (c), we obtain the following complement to Noether's theorem: for  $g > 2$  and  $q > 1$  there exist no fixed set of  $(2q-1)(g-1)$  homogeneous polynomials of degree  $q$  in normalized Abelian differentials of the first kind which spans the space of holomorphic differentials of dimension  $q$  on all non-hyperelliptic closed Riemann surfaces of genus  $g$ .

(e) The mapping  $\tau \rightarrow Z(\tau)$  of the Teichmüller space into the Siegel space is holomorphic. This follows at once from Theorem III, and also by using the coordinates in  $T$  defined in [1] in conjunction with Rauch's variational formulas [5]. These formulas also show



that the mapping of  $T$  into a  $(3g-3)$ -dimensional subspace of the Siegel space,

$$\tau \rightarrow \left\{ \sum_{i,k=1}^{3g-3} \gamma_{j,ik} z_{ik}(\tau), \quad j = 1, \dots, 3g-3 \right\}$$

is one-to-one near a point  $\tau_0$  if and only if the  $3g-3$  functions

$$\sum_{i,k=1}^{3g-3} \gamma_{j,ik} p_i(z, \tau_0) p_k(z, \tau_0)$$

are linearly independent. This shows that near every non-hyperelliptic surface a properly chosen set of  $3g-3$  periods  $z_{ik}$  can serve as a set of local moduli (Rauch). On the other hand, (d) implies a complement to Rauch's theorem: no fixed set of  $3g-3$  linear combinations of periods can serve as a set of moduli near every non-hyperelliptic closed Riemann surface of genus  $g > 2$ .



FOOTNOTE

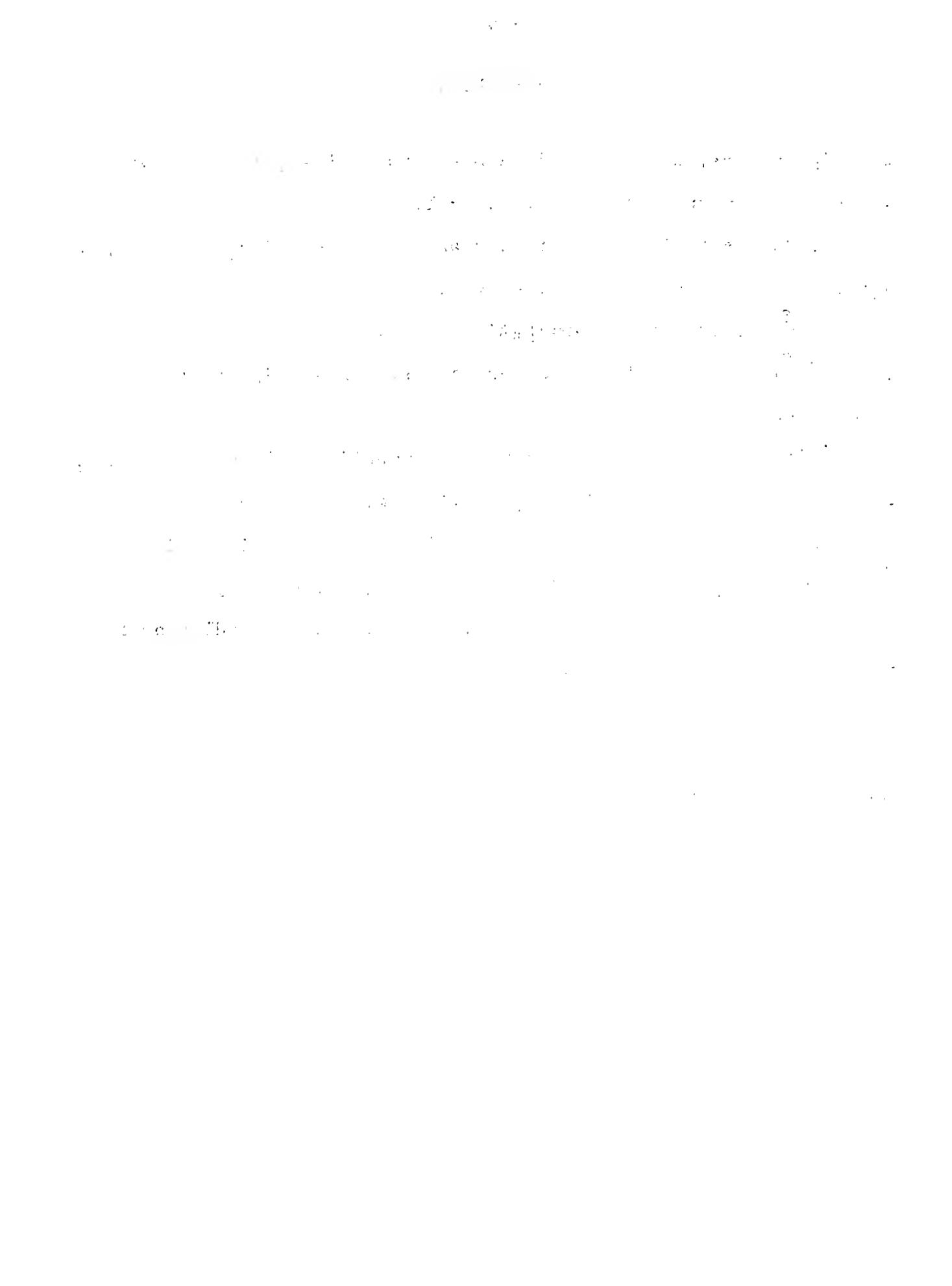
1) We also note the following errata to [2,3]. On p. 94, 1.19, replace  $(\beta)$  by  $\mu(\beta)$ . On p. 96, 1.15, replace the subscript  $j$  by  $2j$ . On p. 97, 1.21, replace  $C_r$  by  $C^r$ . On p. 100, 1.4, replace 'covering' by 'covering space'. On p. 103, equation (9) replace the exponent  $3g-3n+n$  by  $3g-3+n$ .



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